



Brianna Banana has the best secret in the history of Grade 3: she knows she is Helper of the Day! Unfortunately, her substitute teacher isn't in on the secret, and when Brianna faces one disaster after another, she has to find different ways to become a real helper.

Discussion Questions:

1. Brianna was excited to be the Helper of the Day, but things did not work out. How did you feel when Mr. Tilly decided to pause Helper of the Day? Have you ever been excited about something only to be disappointed? How did you handle that?
2. Do you think it was fair that Brianna got fired?
3. Brianna suggests to Miss Dee that she drink some hot water and take some belly breaths when she's feeling anxious. Would you offer Miss Dee any other suggestions? Would these suggestions help you when you are feeling anxious?
4. Why do you think Rumi was hiding under the desk?
5. Brianna likes the idea of being able to turn over a new leaf. Can you think of another example of when someone might want a chance to turn over a new leaf?
6. At the end of the book, Brianna helps Miss Dee and Rumi during the fire drill, even though she doesn't get to be the Helper of the Day. What do you think it means to be a "helper"? Can you think of ways you can be a helper in your classroom or at home?

Activities:

1. Brianna is so excited to be Helper of the Day that she dresses in her most spectacular outfit. Draw a picture of yourself wearing your most sensational outfit from head to toe.
2. Miss Dee wants to get to know all of the students in Room 109. What would you like a substitute teacher to know about you? Write a "Dear Substitute Teacher" letter introducing yourself.



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3. Brianna is really disappointed when the class routine is altered, and they miss things like singing the “Good Morning” song or having morning chitchat. What are your favorite classroom routines? List your top three favorite classroom activities. Compare your list with a friend.
4. Brianna is disappointed that it is the first day of the month and that there is only one number on the calendar to skip-count. How many different ways can you skip count to get to today’s date?
5. Brianna knows what protocol to follow during a fire drill. Write down the steps you should follow during a fire drill at your school.
6. Brianna sometimes struggles with controlling her emotions and listening to others. Try this activity to practice listening carefully. Form a line or circle. The first person whispers a short message to the next. Each person passes the message along by whispering until the last person says what they heard. Compare it to the original message and discuss how well it was passed along.



About the author:

Lana Button is an early childhood educator and the author of more than a dozen books for children, including *Brianna Banana*, *Helper of the Day*, *Stay My Baby*, *Tough Like Mum* and the Kitty and Friends series. Her books have been shortlisted for the Blue Spruce Award, Shining Willow Award, IODE Jean Throop Book Award and Rainforest of Reading, and they have been recognized as Canadian Children’s Book Centre’s Best Books and an IBBY Outstanding Book for Young Children. Lana is a former actress who considers every read-aloud a mini performance. When not writing new stories, Lana spends her time travelling to schools and festivals to share her passion for social-emotional literacy. She lives in Burlington, Ontario.



About the illustrator:

Suharu Ogawa is a Toronto-based illustrator. Her love for drawing started in a kindergarten art school after being kicked out of calligraphy class for refusing to convert to right-handedness. Formally trained in art history and cultural anthropology, she worked for several years as a university librarian until her passion for illustration called her out of that career and into the pursuit of a lifelong dream. Since then, Suharu has created illustrations for magazines, public art projects and children’s books, including *Why Humans Work: How Jobs Shape Our Lives* and *Our World* in the Orca Think line. She also teaches illustration at OCAD University in Toronto.



Watch out for
Brianna Banana Book 3
Coming Soon!

